

# Three Records in BLM District Here Broken During Fiscal Year

Three records in the field of timber sales were broken during fiscal year 1960 which ended June 30 in the Medford district of the bureau of land management, Ross A. Youngblood, district manager, has announced.

The timber sale summary, he said, showed that one of the records was in the offering of timber for bidding; the total volume offered was 243,707,000 board feet.

The volume sold, however, was slightly less than this figure, or 236,131,000 board feet. This was a record high of timber sold in any one single fiscal year for the bureau of land management, Medford district office.

The value received for the timber sold was \$8,178,906.56. This also is a record high for the Medford district office, Youngblood said. It exceeds the value of the offerings of one year ago by about \$3,000,000, and it exceeds the value of the offerings made in 1958 by approximately \$5,000,000.

**Third Record**  
The third record achieved was in the collection, which result from the cutting of the timber sold, he said. These collections totaled \$6,105,141.31, compared to one year ago of \$4,985,288.71. The value trend in the BLM Medford district timber is on the upgrade, Youngblood noted.

Generally, throughout the year keen interest was noted in all BLM timber sales. For the first time interest was broad throughout the entire district from Glendale to Klamath Falls. Bidding at all sales was brisk, with this tempo of interest prevailing throughout the 12-month period, he noted.

The principal volume offered in this record year was Douglas-fir, but the high bid for the year was captured by the ponderosa pine at \$65.75. The highest bid for the Douglas fir was \$55.60. The average price bid for the 236,131,000 sold was about \$35.50.

The volume sold was offered in 76 tracts, 30 of which were in Josephine county, 28 in Jackson county, six in Klamath county, and 12 in Douglas county.

**Average Per Tract**  
The offerings per tract averaged out 2,941,000 board feet. The largest volume sold in a single sale totaled approximately 12,000,000 board feet, Youngblood said.

While no actual tally was made, it is surmised that most of the volume was purchased by lumber concerns in the Rogue Valley area. The largest offering of approximately 12,000,000 board feet went to the Bate Lumber company at Merlin.

The Medford district of BLM totals about 900,000 acres of land. The sustained yield allowable cut from the approximately 800,000 acres of the O and C lands, has been computed, using 1959 inventory data, to be 221,000,000 board feet per year.

The estimated allowable cut from the 100,000 acres of public domain lands is about 22,000,000 board feet, should these public domain lands be administered in conjunction with O and C grant lands. Otherwise, however, should the public domain timber lands be managed separately, the estimated allowable cut per year from these lands would total only about 19,000,000 board feet per year.

**Offering on Market**  
For the year just ended the offering on the market for competitive bidding totaled 243,707,000 board feet, the district manager noted. This is about the sustained yield allowable cut for all of the O and C lands and public domain lands combined in the total district.

Revenues from the sale of timber in the district must be segregated by two classes, that is, O and C and public domain, Youngblood said. The reason for this is that the bureau shares different percentages of timber receipts with local county governments for the two classes of lands.

The Sustained Yield Act for the O and C lands of Aug. 28, 1937, requires the federal government to return 75 per cent of the gross receipts to the counties. The payment is to compensate local governments for taxes which they lost when the United States reclaimed title of the O and C grant lands in 1916.

Douglas, Jackson and Josephine counties will share handsomely in the division of the gross receipts collected from land activities on the O and C lands, Youngblood noted. The sharing is revealed by the fact that Douglas county will get 25.11 per cent, Jackson county will get 15.88 per cent, and Josephine county will get 12.02 per cent of the gross receipts.

**Returned Revenue**  
For the public domain lands, which are commingled with the O and C railroad grant lands in the Medford BLM district area, only 5 per

cent of the revenues is returned to the local government; the remaining 95 per cent is placed in the reclamation fund.

Jackson county is also presently sharing in this 95 per cent since the bureau of reclamation is constructing the Howard Prairie reservoir and enlarging Emigrant dam.

Records for the fiscal year also shows that there has been moderately heavy traffic in other BLM activities in the district, Youngblood noted.

In the timber trespass activity, 70 timber trespass cases were closed, and 41 new cases were picked up. The average volume of timber cut per tract totaled 22,000 board feet, and the average value collected for these average tracts was \$693. Total of all trespass collections during the fiscal year amounted to \$21,344.74.

**Upward Trend**  
It is noted that there is an upward trend in commercial Christmas-tree cutting trespasses, since for this same period 2,127 trees were cut in trespass with a value set at \$1,492.35.

Another upward trend was noted in occupancy trespass;

it is believed that this trend is brought about by the increase in population and, that it is unlawful to build a home on BLM land without a permit, Youngblood noted.

To further complicate the matter, he said, many of the BLM lands finger down to the Rogue valley edge, making them accessible and thus highly attractive in many instances for resident construction. Admittance trespass action is being taken by the bureau of land management district office either to remove these trespassers from the BLM land or to require the trespasser to pay damages and, in some cases, a permit for occupancy is subsequently approved should the area turn out to be suitable for home-site development.

**Access Roads**  
Access road construction projects for fiscal year 1960 shared heavily in Medford district activities, he noted.

The West Fork of Evans creek access road, totaling 16 1/2 miles, was completed; the Thompson creek bridge, and approaches, was completed; five medium-to-large access roads; 60 per cent of this ed in this same period.

Rocking was started on the

West Fork of Evans creek access road; 65 per cent of this job is estimator to be completed. When the project is finished this access road will be completely winterized for winter usage. The Cantrall bridge on the Applegate river was started.

Access road construction and timber sale road construction are an important facet of the timber sale development program for the Medford district of BLM. There is considerable preliminary work needed prior to getting an access road under construction, Youngblood noted.

BLM engineers during the year made reconnaissance, or on-the-ground examinations for 30 miles of access road. BLM engineers directed the work of bureau of public roads location survey crews on 40 miles of access road surveys. BPR survey crews set clearing stakes on 39 miles of access road, and when they have been constructed over a billion board feet of BLM timber will be opened up for further development.

**Agreement Noted**  
By an agreement with O and C counties, money for the development of O and C ac-

cess roads comes from one-third of the gross receipts that goes to the counties in lieu of tax payments; 25 per cent of the 75 per cent of gross receipts that goes to the counties for tax payments are allocated by the agreement with the counties for road construction and reforestation in the O and C area.

Fifty-seven permanent easements were acquired from private individuals in the Medford BLM district last year. Right-of-way agreements between the BLM and private individuals is another means of getting access to the public timber. In 1960 fiscal year nine right-of-way agreements were approved.

Money to maintain a logging road comes from two sources. One is from congressional appropriated funds, but the main source in the Medford BLM district is from the collection of fees paid by the users of the roads. From this source the Medford district received \$49,050.83 last year, Youngblood said.

**Acres are Leased**  
A total of 452,641 acres in the Medford district were leased this last fiscal year for grazing of stock purposes. Livestock that graze on the

BLM lands are almost 100 per cent cattle. BLM furnished forage for about 5,000 head of stock last year.

The best and the most grazing lands under lease are located in Jackson county, while \$14,344.65 was the amount of rental collected for the use of the cattle that grazed on BLM lands, this value is not necessarily comparable to other user rentals or collection, Youngblood said. The collected rental does not much more than pay for the cost of processing leases and administering the lands under lease, he added.

Blister rust control operations continued last year and accounted for a good portion of the forestry activities for the district.

For the year ending June 30, total acres worked to control the blister rust disease amounted to 2,834. Research in the field of protecting sugar pine trees from infection by blister rust has revealed that a spray, Acti-dione, is effective. Some 4,500 hand-picked young sugar pine trees were sprayed with Acti-dione last year.

**Tree-Breeding Program**  
Presently considerable work is being done on a tree-breeding program to develop

a rust resistant strain of sugar pine, Youngblood said. Should the rust-resistant sugar pine be developed, the seed or the seedling grown from the rust-resistant seeds could be used for reforestation work, eliminating the more expensive ribes eradication work.

In the Medford district seven cone-bearing resistant trees have been discovered, and presently controlled pollination of the cone crop on these trees is being performed, he said. This requires climbing each tree to bag and artificially pollinate each individual cone from other resistant trees. Since controlled pollination has been successful in horticulture work, it is hoped that eventually only rust resistant seedlings or seed can be planted, Youngblood said.

**Mineral Activity**  
In the field of mineral activity during the year 30,000 acres of BLM land was examined under Public Law 167. Preliminary field work on examining lands for location of mining claims was located in Jackson and Josephine counties. Two thousand, or 7 per cent of the 30,000 acres of BLM lands examined were found to have mining claims.

Mineral claim examinations

are to determine the actual validity of the mining claims.

In the year just past, 2,042 acres received reforestation treatment, either by seeding or by planting trees. Planting of ponderosa pine and sugar pine seed in the districts seems to produce favorable results, he said. Planting Douglas-fir seed, either by hand or by mechanical means, has not produced as favorable results as planting pines. Last year, about 200 pounds of seed were planted, with the most of these being of the pine species. Also in the year, 1,487,600 seedlings were planted,

a good portion of them ponderosa pine.

## Autopsy Reveals Woman Murdered

Portland, Oreg. — An autopsy report has disclosed that a 34-year-old cook at the YMCA, found dead at her home last Saturday was slain.

Portland detectives here said Saturday that the victim, Mrs. Olive Mattlock, died of a brain hemorrhage, apparently brought on by a bad beating.

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